

## LECTIONARY READINGS FOR MORNING PRAYER

<b>Mon</b>	Psalm 50	Isaiah 25.1–9	Matthew 12.1–21
<b>Tue</b>	Psalm 80	Isaiah 26.1–13	Matthew 12.22–37
<b>Wed</b>	Psalm 7	Isaiah 28.1–13	Matthew 12.38–end
<b>Thu</b>	Psalm 42	Isaiah 28.14–end	Matthew 13.1–23
<b>Fri</b>	Psalm 25	Isaiah 29.1–14	Matthew 13.24–43
<b>Sat</b>	Psalm 9	Isaiah 29.15–end	Matthew 13.44–end

## DIARY FOR THE WEEK

(Starting on Monday 29th Nov)

<b>Mon</b>	10am	<b>GroW:</b> Toddler “Stay & Play” Group, St John’s Hall (advance bookings only)
	12.45pm	<b>GroW:</b> “Bumps & Babies” Group, St John’s Hall (advance bookings only)
	7pm	1st Grove Guides, St John’s Hall
<b>Tue</b>	9.30am-11am	Make & Bake for under 5’s at Cornerstone, Grove.
	10am	<b>GroW:</b> Toddler “Stay & Play” Group, St John’s Hall (advance bookings only)
	10am	Simply Singing Group, St John’s Rooms
<b>Wed</b>	<b>10am</b>	<b>Mid-week Eucharist at St James, West Hanney</b>
	2pm	Advent Course – St John’s Rooms
	6.30pm	Chess Club, St John’s Rooms
	7pm	2nd Grove Guides, St John’s Hall
	9.30am	St John’s Toddlers Group, St John’s Hall
	10am	<b>Mid-week Holy Communion at St John’s, Grove</b>
	6pm	Open Table Meeting at Cornerstone, Grove
<b>Thu</b>	7.30pm	Advent Course (on Zoom)
	8pm	20s and 30s Group, Grove
	9.30am	White Horse Extend (over 60’s) Exercise, St John’s Hall
<b>Fri</b>	<b>10am</b>	<b>Mid-week Eucharist at St Nicholas, East Challow</b>
	5.30pm	1st Grove Brownies, St John’s Hall
	8pm	St John’s Badminton Group, St John’s Hall
<b>Sun</b>	9.45-11.45am	<b>GroW:</b> Parenting Course, St John’s Hall
	12.30pm	<b>GroW:</b> Baby Massage Group, St John’s Rooms
	2pm	Friends on Friday social – St John’s Church Hall
<b>Sun</b>	<i>Church services for the Benefice are written on the front of this news sheet</i>	
	2.30pm	Blessing & Thanksgiving Service for a child at St James the Great Church, W.Hanney
	6.30pm	Senior Youth Group, St John’s Hall

## CONTACT DETAILS

**Vicar:** Revd. John Durant: Tel. 01235 766484. Email: [vicar@valebenefice.org.uk](mailto:vicar@valebenefice.org.uk)

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**Curate:** Chris Ashton: [CurateChris@valebenefice.org.uk](mailto:CurateChris@valebenefice.org.uk)

**Licensed Lay Minister:** Sue Powditch: Tel. 01235 768141. Email: [llm@valebenefice.org.uk](mailto:llm@valebenefice.org.uk)

**Benefice Office:** Grove Parish Church, Main Street, Grove, OX12 7LQ.

**Open:** Mon–Fri 10–12: Tel. 01235 771479. Email: [office@valebenefice.org.uk](mailto:office@valebenefice.org.uk)



## Sunday 28th November 2021 Advent Sunday

Jeremiah 33:14-17 | 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13 | Luke 21:25-36

Advent - the Church’s New Year. Our readings reflect the dual focus of Advent - looking forward to the first Christmas when God fulfilled His promise of a perfect successor for King David and looking forward to the approaching time when that “Son of Man” will return to establish the Kingdom of God. So, what does it imply for us living in the meantime? Jesus tells us to keep ready. Paul prays like this for the Christians in Thessalonica: “May He so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all His saints.” Amen

### Our Shared Worship

#### Sunday 28th November

8am Holy Communion– Rev Alec Gill

9.30am Parish Eucharist at St James the Great, West Hanney – Rev Chris Ashton

10am Morning Worship & **ZOOM** at St Johns, Grove – Sue Powditch (LLM)

10am Communion at St James, Denchworth – **NO SERVICE**

11.15am Parish Eucharist at St Nicholas, East Challow – Rev John Durant

6pm Advent Carols at St James, Denchworth – Rev John Durant

### Upcoming Services

#### Sunday 5th December

8am Holy Communion at St Johns, Grove – Rev John Durant

9.30am Parish Eucharist at St James the Great, West Hanney - **NO SERVICE**

10am Holy Communion at St Johns, Grove - **NO SERVICE**

10am Communion at St James, Denchworth – **NO SERVICE**

11.15am “**Patronal Festival**” Parish Eucharist at St Nicholas, East Challow with

Rev John Durant & Rev Alec Gill

6pm Evening Service at St Johns, Grove – Rev John Durant

## BENEFICE NEWS

We want to welcome all to our church services in the Benefice in a way that is safe and sensitive to the variety of people's needs and views. Each church has slightly different ways of doing this, so if you wish to attend but have any concerns, please contact that particular church. I hope it goes without saying that as Christians who love each other, we should be courteous and considerate to all; the challenge is to do that when there are significantly different expectations and preferences. All churches shall continue to offer Communion in one form only and mask wearing is encouraged but in line with Church guidelines it cannot be made compulsory.

**At our HANNEY PCC** we covered the topics of Safeguarding, the War Graves and the possibility of a website, we heard about the Deanery Synod that met the previous evening, we discussed the practical aspects of the outside services and events that are happening next month, we were very keen to get on with providing a toilet in church so decided to revisit and explore the scheme; decided to inspect the faulty roof alarm before the service date; received positive reports on St James School, Children's work and finance, looking into getting a card reader.

**BENEFICE ADVENT COURSE – THE CHRISTIAN HOPE** How can we have HOPE in these challenging times and specifically as we look at the themes of ADVENT. Being held on Tuesdays 30<sup>th</sup> Nov as well as the 7<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> Dec, at 2pm in St John's rooms. Also being held on Zoom at 7.30pm on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> Dec. Please advise the office if you would like to attend either on Tuesdays or via Zoom on Wednesdays, so that we can advise on numbers and send you the Zoom link.

**BENEFICE ADVENT TRAVELLERS** During Advent, the figures of Mary and Joseph with donkey will be transported (by the clergy) round the Benefice looking for somewhere to spend the night. Would you like to welcome them into your home for a night or two? If so, please let the office know as soon as possible of the dates that would be convenient to you. Please leave your telephone contact details. Thank you.

**THURSDAY AFTERNOON BIBLE STUDY GROUP** Please note, this group will not meet again until 16th December to enable members to attend the Church Advent Group.

**COFFEE AT GROVE** we are pleased to announce that we have invested in a new coffee machine which we hope to be using from this Sunday. Do stay after the service, enjoy a coffee, or tea, and catch up with church family, friends, and visitors.

**MINCE PIES! – Grove Christmas Services** If you are able to donate mince pies for the Carol Service on 19<sup>th</sup> December (6pm) & the Crib Service on 24<sup>th</sup> December (4pm), please do bring them to the Benefice Office. Thank you! **HELP NEEDED** We are also needing some Volunteers to help with the after-service refreshments at the above mentioned services. Please contact us if you can help out. Many thanks.

**BENEFICE: CHRISTMAS PRESENTS, TOYS, VOUCHERS, GIFT CARDS & DONATIONS (for The LITTLE PEOPLE's local families in need)** are now being collected at the Benefice Office at St John's Church, Grove. Or you can bring them to the 10am Family Service on 12<sup>th</sup> December at St John's Church, where we will be collecting these items to pass on to "Little People" to distribute as Christmas presents to local families in need. We are also collecting wrapping paper and sellotape if you have any to donate. Please no Cheques. Many thanks for your generous donations already.

**THE GROVE CHURCH "SUNDAY BOOK"** is situated on the Welcome Table in the church Foyer. If you have any **non-confidential** information that you would like to share with the office, vicars or volunteers who take care of the church and its grounds, please write a note in the book with a date, your name and the specific issue, problem or information **clearly** mentioned. We will then check the book at the beginning of each week & pass the information on to the relevant people. Thank you.

**STREET PASTORS - VOLUNTEERS URGENTLY NEEDED** as "prayer support" people to help with Street Pastors. To find out more information and if you can help, please contact Nigel Watt [nigel@nigel-watt.org.uk](mailto:nigel@nigel-watt.org.uk) Thank you.

**OXFORD HEALTH COMMUNITY SERVICES STRATEGY WORKSHOP** on **Wednesday 8th December 2021**. Oxford Health is holding this workshop at which carers, friends and family members of patients can share their experiences of accessing health services and help shape future plans for the county's community services. <https://healthwatchoxfordshire.co.uk/news/oxford-health-community-services-strategy-workshop-on-wednesday-8th-december/>

**CORNERSTONE CHRISTMAS SPECIALS** On non-Christmas lunch days during December, we will have our Christmas specials menu available. Book a table for 6 or more and receive a free jug of mulled punch and crackers.

**SPIN DRYER REQUEST** Has anyone got a small spin dryer they no longer need or use for a Syrian refugee family? If so, please contact Peter or Angela Rich 411315.

**AT ST NICHOLAS** We have been praying for the people in Afghanistan since US troops left. On the radio this week John Simpson, a very experienced BBC reporter, was in tears as he described the plight of the Afghan people. David Milliband, now CEO of the International Relief Committee explained about the work of this organisation in Afghanistan. If either the organisation or David Milliband are 'googled,' it is possible to donate to their work in Afghanistan or their work around the world. Many thanks.

**OHCT**, who have made generous Grants to 3 of our Benefice Churches are selling Christmas cards to both support their work and inform about it. They are in packs of 10 cards for £5 per pack - if you would like to order some please contact Alison Trowell on 868131 or [alison.trowell@btinternet.com](mailto:alison.trowell@btinternet.com).



**PRAYER REQUESTS** If anyone has specific prayer requests, please confidentially to; [prayer@valebenefice.org.uk](mailto:prayer@valebenefice.org.uk)

**NEWSLETTER** please send notices by 10pm on a Wednesday to [news@valebenefice.org.uk](mailto:news@valebenefice.org.uk). Only include personal information if you consent to it being published.

## PLEASE PRAY FOR...

**Health and healing** Lesley Hummerston, Alan Rolls, Norah Lunn & Ursula Geer.

**Friends & Family mourning:** for Nancy Whitley, Barry Hambleton & Peter Arnold.

**Please pray** for those persecuted for their faith especially in Burma right now.

**Those living at** Challow Road in East Challow; Summertown in East Hanney; Fairfield Close, Farm End and School Lane in Grove. Also, for Grove CE School.